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Unfortunately, each winter's work of the sea blots out the traces of previous work along the Nome beaches, and leaves little clue as to where pay dirt will be found at the opening of the next brief summer.

A. P. B.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.

The National Geographic Society has issued the following announcement:

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT, EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, 1904.

HUBBARD MEMORIAL HALL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.,
January, 1904.

The Executive Committee of the Seventh International Geographic Congress, held in Berlin in 1899, having voted to convoke its next session in Washington, the National Geographic Society, as the organization responsible for the management of sessions in the United States, will welcome the Eighth Congress and its friends to the National Capital of the United States in September, 1904.

Geographers and promoters of geography throughout the world, especially members of geographic societies and cognate institutions of scientific character, are cordially invited to assemble in Washington, D. C., on September 8th, 1904, for the first international meeting of geographers in the Western Hemisphere.

On the invitation of the National Geographic Society the following societies join in welcoming the Congress and undertake to co-operate toward its success, especially in so far as sessions to be held in their respective cities are concerned :

The American Geographical Society.	The Geographical Society of Philadelphia.
The Geographic Society of Baltimore.	The Appalachian Mountain Club.
The Geographic Society of Chicago.	The Geographical Society of the Pacific.
The Geographical Society of California.	The Sierra Club.
The Mazamas.	The American Alpine Club.
The Peary Arctic Club.	The Harvard Travellers Club.

The Congress will convene in Washington on Thursday, September 8th, in the new home of the National Geographic Society, and will hold sessions on the 9th and 10th, the latter under the auspices of the Geographic Society of Baltimore. Leaving Washington on the 12th, the Members, Associates, and Guests of the Congress will be entertained during that day by the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, and on the 13th, 14th and 15th by the American Geographical Society of New York, where

scientific sessions will be held; on the 16th they will have the opportunity of visiting Niagara Falls (*en route* westward by special train), and on the 17th will be entertained by the Geographic Society of Chicago; and on Monday and Tuesday, September 19th and 20th, they will be invited to participate in the International Congress of Arts and Science connected with the World's Fair in St. Louis. Arrangements will be made here for visiting exhibits of geographic interest. In case any considerable number of Members and Associates so desire, a Far-West excursion will be provided from St. Louis to the City of Mexico, thence to Santa Fé, thence to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and on to San Francisco and the Golden Gate, where the western Geographic Societies will extend special hospitality; afterward returning by any preferred route through the Rocky Mountains and the interior plains to the eastern ports.

If the membership and finances warrant, the foreign delegates will be made guests of the Congress from Washington to St. Louis, via Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Niagara Falls and Chicago. On the Far-West excursion special terms will be secured, reducing the aggregate cost of transportation, with sleeping-car accommodations and meals, materially below the customary rates. It may be necessary to limit the number of persons on the Far-West excursion. It is planned also to secure special rates for transportation of foreign members from one or more European ports to New York, provided requisite information as to convenience and pleasure of such members be obtained in time. Final information on these points will be given in the preliminary program of June, 1904.

The subjects for treatment and discussion in the Congress may be classified as follows:

1. Physical Geography, including Geomorphology, Meteorology, Hydrology, etc.
2. Mathematical Geography, including Geodesy and Geophysics.
3. Biogeography, including Botany and Zoology in their geographic aspects.
4. Anthropogeography, including Ethnology.
5. Descriptive Geography, including Explorations and Surveys.
6. Geographic Technology, including Cartography, Bibliography, etc.
7. Commercial and Industrial Geography.
8. History of Geography.
9. Geographic Education.

A special opportunity will be afforded for the discussion of methods of surveying and map-making, and for the comparison of these methods as pursued in other countries with the work of the Federal and State Surveys maintained in this country.

Members of the Congress will be entitled to participate in all sessions and excursions, and to attend all social meetings in honor of the Congress; they will also (whether in attendance or not) receive the publications of the Congress, including the daily Program and the final Compte Rendu, or volume of proceedings. Membership may be acquired by members of geographic and cognate societies on payment of \$5 (25 francs, one pound, or 20 marks) to the Committee of Arrangements. Persons not members of such societies may acquire membership by a similar payment and election by the Presidency. Ladies and minors accompanying members may be registered as Associates on payment of \$2.50 (12½ francs, or 10 shillings, or 10 marks); they shall enjoy all privileges of members except the rights of voting and of receiving publications.

Geographers and their friends desirous of attending the Congress or receiving its publications, are requested to signify their intention at the earliest practicable date in

order that subsequent announcements may be sent them without delay, and that requisite arrangements for transportation may be effected. On receipt of subscriptions, Members' and Associates' tickets will be mailed to the subscribers. The privileges of the Congress, including the excursions and the social gatherings, can be extended only to holders of tickets.

It is earnestly hoped that the Congress of 1904 may be an assemblage of geographic and cognate institutions no less than of individual geographers; and to this end a special invitation is extended to such organizations to participate in the Congress through delegates, on the basis of one for each one hundred members up to a maximum of ten. No charge will be made for the registration of institutions, though the delegates will be expected to subscribe as members; and in order that the list of affiliated institutions (to be issued in a later announcement) may be worthy of full confidence, the Committee of Arrangements reserve the right to withhold the name of any institution pending action by the Presidency. The publications of the Congress will be sent free to all institutions registered. It is especially desired that the geographic societies of the Western Hemisphere may utilize the opportunity afforded by this Congress for establishing closer relations with those of the Old World, and to facilitate this, Spanish will be recognized as one of the languages of the Congress, with French, English, German, and Italian, in accordance with previous usage; and communications before the Congress may be written in any one (or more) of these languages.

Institutions not strictly Geographic in character, Libraries, Universities, Academies of Science, and Scientific Societies are especially invited to subscribe as members in order to receive the publications of the Congress as issued.

Members and Delegates desirous of presenting communications before the Congress, or wishing to propose subjects for discussion, are requested to signify their wishes at the earliest practicable date in order that the titles or subjects may be incorporated in a Preliminary Program to be issued in June, 1904. The time required for presenting communications should be stated, otherwise twelve minutes will be allotted. It is anticipated that not more than twenty minutes can be allotted for any communication unless the Presidency decide to extend the time by reason of the general interest or importance of the subject. The Presidency, with the complete Organization of the Congress (including Delegates), will be announced in the Preliminary Program of June, 1904.

All papers or abstracts designed for presentation before the Congress, and all proposals and applications affecting the Congress, will be submitted to a Program Committee, who shall decide whether the same are appropriate for incorporation in the announcements, though the decisions of this Committee shall be subject to revision by the Presidency after the Congress convenes.

Any proposal affecting the organization of the Congress or the program for the Washington session must be received in writing not later than May 1, 1904. Communications designed to be printed in connection with the Congress must be received not later than June 1, and any abstracts of communications (not exceeding 300 words in length) designed for printing in the General Program to be published at the beginning of the Congress must be received not later than August 1, 1904. Daily Programs will be issued during the sessions.

All correspondence relating to the Congress and all remittances should be addressed—

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS,
Hubbard Memorial Hall,
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

The Committee in charge of the arrangements for the Congress has accepted the invitation of the American Geographical Society to hold two or three meetings in the City of New York. These meetings will be held on September 13, 14 and 15, at hours and places hereafter to be designated by the American Geographical Society.

Fellows of this Society will please take notice that membership in the Congress may be acquired on application, with a remittance of Five Dollars, to

THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS
EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS,
Hubbard Memorial Hall,
Washington, D. C.

Members of the Congress will receive the publications and enjoy the other privileges, as above noted.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

MUIR GLACIER RETREATING.—Since 1899 excursion boats from Sitka have not been able to approach the main glacier nearer than from five to ten miles. The channel of Muir Inlet has been choked with ice. A series of severe earthquakes occurred late in 1899, and it is supposed the impassable condition of Muir Inlet is due largely to the consequent breaking down of the front of the glacier, which clogged the inlet with ice. In May last Messrs. Andrews and Case of Skagway forced their way with difficulty to the glacier, and discovered that its front had retired two and a half miles in four years, a higher rate of retrogression than had been observed before. The rate of recession for twenty years after John Muir rediscovered the glacier in 1879 was about a mile in seven years. The present indications are that before long Muir Glacier will cease to reach tide water.

FORESTS AND RAINFALL.—The local impression that for some years the Rock River of Wisconsin and Illinois has been decreasing in volume, or has at least been changing in the regularity of its flow, has led the Forestry Bureau to undertake a study of *The*